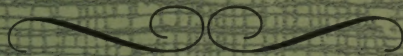


# *85th Anniversary*



*Augustana Lutheran Church*

*Justin, Michigan*

*1874 - 1959*



*Anniversary Meetings*

*June 25-28, 1959*







# *85th Anniversary*

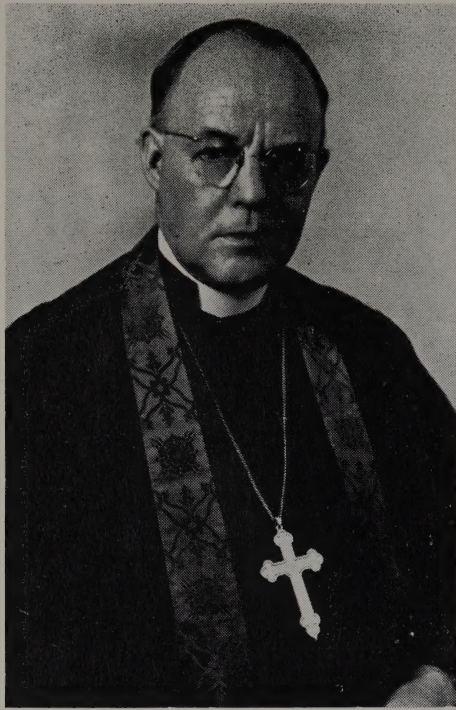


## *Augustana Lutheran Church* *Justin, Michigan*

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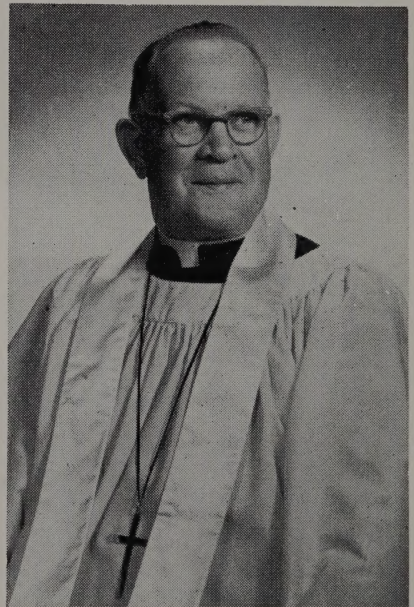




Dr. Oscar A. Benson  
A.M., B.D., Ph.D., D.D.  
President of the Augustana Lutheran Church of America



Dr. O. V. Anderson  
B.D., S.T.M., D.D.  
President of the Central Conference  
of the Augustana Lutheran Church



Reverend Fritz Soderberg, B.D.  
Tustin, Michigan



## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church was founded by Dr. Martin Luther (born November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany, died February 18, 1546). Dr. Martin Luther was a devout Christian forever seeking the eternal truths of the Word of God. He came to a final conclusion from the Word of God, that, "The just shall live by Faith." The Lutheran Church was organized June 25, 1530, when the Augsburg Confession was read and adopted. It is the largest Protestant Church in the world, having a membership of eighty million souls.

Dr. Oscar A. Benson, A.M. B.D. Ph.D. D.D. was born April 7, 1891 in Derry, Pa. He graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, N. J. He was ordained June 3, 1915 in Minneapolis, Minn. He is the 10th President of the Augustana Lutheran Church in America. He was elected Vice President in 1950 of the National Lutheran Council (eight Lutheran bodies with five million members). In 1955 Dr. Benson was decorated by King Gustav of Sweden, receiving the decoration of Commander of the Order of the North Star. We thank him for his greeting to our 85th anniversary June 25-28th 1959.

Dr. O. V. Anderson, B.D. S.T.M. D.D. was born February 24, 1903 in Brooklyn, N. Y. He graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, N. J. He was ordained June 18, 1933 in Chicago, Ill., upon the call to Barstow, Ill. He has the great distinction to be the President of the Central Conference with Headquarters in Chicago, Ill. We thank him for his greeting to our anniversary.

Rev. Fritz Soderberg, B.D. was born February 12, 1890 in Brestau, Germany, He graduated from Upsala College, East Orange (Kennilworth) N. J. He was ordained June 10, 1927 in Omaha, Nebraska upon the call to the North Grosvenor Dale, Conn., and Auburn, Mass., parish. He came to the Tustin-LeRoy parish June 13, 1957. He has enjoyed his work and is happy to be along to prepare for our 85th anniversary this year. May God bless us richly.





*Come unto Me*



## **"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"**

We believe that when our Saviour Jesus Christ uttered the Words "I will build My Church" (Matt. 16:18), The Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, Michigan was in His eternal mind. We are sure that this Church like so many other churches is built upon confession Peter made long ago, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" this has been the confession during the years by all the faithful believers of our beloved church. No one knows the deep spiritual under-current that has been the unseen force to carry on the work in our church for 85 years in this vicinity. We cannot explain the spiritual power of the sixteen pastors who labored here. We sense Gods power in the annual reports from year to year.

### **The Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin, Michigan**

It is interesting as we study its history to notice the name of our Village Tustin.

### **THE REV. JOSIAH P. TUSTIN, D. D.**

The Rev. Josiah P. Tustin, D. D., rector of St. Marks Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1863-1870, was a member of the General Convention Committee on Friendly Relations with the Church of Sweden in 1871. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad cooperated by sending him to Sweden as its personal representative in the summer of 1870 to induce Scandinavians to immigrate to Michigan. He succeeded in bringing one thousand Swedes to Michigan, some of them settled in Osceola and Newaygo counties. They were so grateful to him that they named the town Tustin for him. Dr. Tustin is titled "Missionary to the Swedes in Michigan." His time had been divided between Europe and this country. He organized two Swedish parishes, St. Johannes at New Bleking (now Tustin) and St. Ansgarius at New Swea in Osceola county.

November 1870, the Rev. Peter August Almquist began the "Mission to the Swedes" with residence in Paris, Michigan. He reports a number of baptisms, confirmation and reception of members in Tustin, Reed City, Big Rapids, Morley, and Clam Lake (Cadillac) at Tustin, an earnest desire was to build a parsonage in the deep forest and erect a church edifice as soon as money was available.

January 1, 1872 was a great celebration when the first train came through the Village of Tustin, the way for further development had now begun. March 21, 1872 we read: "We, the undersigned, being persons attached to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden and acknowledging the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Michigan, do hereby agree to organize a church according to the usage of the Evangelical Church of Sweden. Then on July 17, 1872, the Continental Improvement Company



granted to the trustees a town plat under and according to the statutes of the State of Michigan, said plat suitable grounds for a school house, cemetery and church, said cemetery, church and school to be under the control, and subject to the management and government of the vestry of the parish to New Sweden, in Bleking, in communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden, and organized according to the canons of the Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Michigan. The sum of \$4532.45 was donated by the Company for this work.

In 1874 Rev. Almquist reports 71 communicant members, 40 belonging to the Tustin organization. Rev Almquist lived in Big Rapids between 1872-1874. Now and then the Bishop George De Normandie Gillespie, First Bishop of Western Michigan, made occasional visits in Tustin and vicinity and baptized persons here. We have some of the records of Rev. Almquist in our files.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tustin, Michigan was organized April 4, 1874. Rev. Almquist states that the new church embraced almost all the members of St. Johannes. He continued to make his visits here now and then, but since it was of no avail the Episcopal church disbanded. The sum of money given to the joint churches became a storm center of arguments in 1876. We read in our minutes that a committee was elected to meet and come to friendly terms. The outcome was that the sum of \$1646.87 was given to the Diocese of the State of Michigan. We are told that there are some seven or eight bodies that rest in the cemetery. We found the grave of two persons and you will see the picture in this booklet. While some records of those early days are lost, we are happy to state that the records from the day of organizing our church are perfect from year to year.

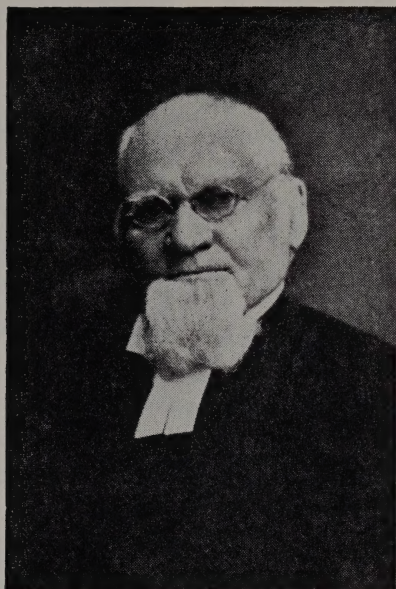
### **THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

A meeting held in the log cabin of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Anderson at town corners April 4, 1874. The meeting was called to order by chairman E. Berglund and secretary, August Peterson. It was voted 1.(to organize the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tustin, Michigan). 2.(to accept the doctrines of the Augsburg Confession). 3.(to adopt the Augustana Synods Constitution). 4.(to petition the Augustana Synod at its meeting June 24, 1874 at Galsburg, Ill., for entrance into the Synod. The following deacons were elected: P. A. Johnson, August Peterson and Otto Anderson. Trustees: August Peterson, C. Larson, J. A. Gabrielson. Besides those mentioned above Mrs. Amanda Peterson and the wives of some of the members, ten in all.

The first annual meeting January 11, 1875, added 15 members. In March a special meeting was held to call a pastor to the Tustin, Hobart,



Clam Lake (Cadillac) and Reed City churches. The candidate nominated was the Rev. C. H. Sodergren, he declined. At the annual meeting January 1, 1876 it was reported 36 members and 29 children, 65 souls in all. At the meeting April 24, 1876 the Rev. N. A. Youngberg presided. April 2, 1877 voted to build a parsonage and call a pastor.



Rev. John Forsberg was born November 9, 1834 in Sweden. He worked as a blacksmith. At the age of 30 he was appointed Government Inspector of the machine shops throughout the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway.

In 1866 he came to Chicago, was city missionary for three years. Went to Moline, Ill., preached in several churches, studied at the Augustana Seminary and was ordained upon the call to Tustin parish, in the summer of 1877. Here he found work and a field that stretched from Grand Rapids to Mackinac. He found societies without church organization and a place for worship. He organized a number of churches Reed City, Cadillac, Hobart Morley, Bound Mills (Gilbert) and he had about sixteen congregations to care for. At Tustin he added 125 members and served in all some 500 souls. It was voted to build a parsonage and lay a sidewalk in front of it. In 1885 he went to Sweden. In 1887 we find the churches in Tustin, LeRoy and Dewing Siding active. The church was built on the land of Anderson and Lindstrom, who donated it. He left Tustin in 1885. He died January 1921. After a brief vacancy the congregation welcomed its second pastor.

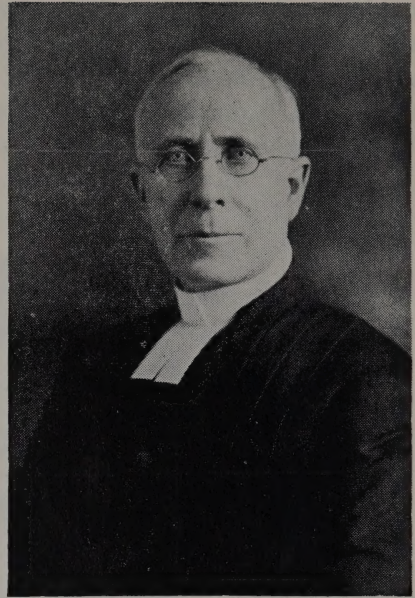


### **Reverend Martin P. Oden**

February 5, 1889 - 1891

Reverend Oden was born November 13, 1852, in Halland, Sweden. He came to New York City, July 1876, preached in Brooklyn, N. Y., was ordained June 22, 1879 in Chicago, Ill., upon the call from the Tustin and Big Rapids district. His stay was rather brief. He was of a high churchly type of a pastor and well liked. During his period a balcony was built. And the church bells began to ring Saturday 6 p. m. (afton-klampning) and 15 minutes before the service, and at the close of the services.

The report shows Feb. 4, 1890, 160 members, 125 children, in all 285 souls. A fine report was given. September 18, 1891 it was reported Gilbert will join Cadillac and Hobart was asked to stay with Tustin. Oden resigned and a brief vacancy followed. Dr. L. G. Abrahamson who learned that a pastor by name Rev. C. A. Johnson had no charge at present suggested he would go to Tustin.



### **REV C. A. JOHNSON**

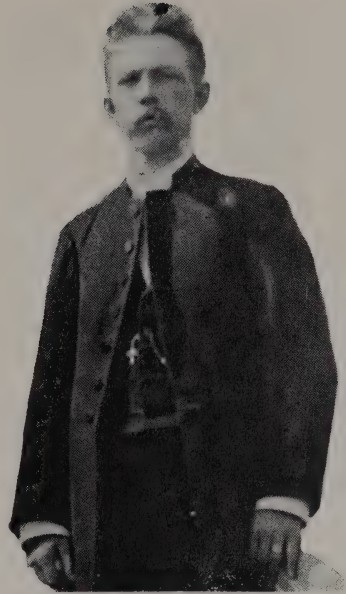
Rev. Johnson came in January 17, 1892, having no church at present he was called to be the pastor. There were about 319 souls at this time in the parish. Rev. Johnson made a fine impression upon the congregation. However, he states in his annual report of 1893 that the year began like a bright and glorious spring day, but ended in a dark day of the fall. This was his own fault, for he printed a book "Försoningens verklighet. Jehovah is Salvation" Dr. Abrahamson, Illinois Conference President wrote to Rev. Johnson September 14, 1893 and warned him. The district brethren warned him also but he refused, the result was that he lost his letter of the ministry and was asked to leave the parsonage. A short period of vacancy followed when Rev. Gibson from Cadillac was vice pastor. At the meeting August 17, 1894 the call went to



**Reverend O. S. Werner**

1894 - September, 1897

During his stay the Dewing church asked to withdraw from the Tustin parish and become independent, and built its own church. His stay was brief and we find he left September 21, 1897. Hobart was asked to join Tustin but declined. The services were well attended and the organizations were active. Reverend Werner resigned in order that he might enter the field of medicine. March 31, 1898 a call was extended to . . .



**Reverend Victor Vixell**

June 10, 1897 - February 1, 1900

He gave a fine report of the work January 3, 1899 and in 1900, and he took part in the 25th anniversary of the church. When Vixell resigned, Student O. Lind, and Student Levander preached for some time. Student Lind a fine young man, liked by all took sick and died in 1900. On August 15, 1901, Mr. A. A. Lovene acted as chairman, and the call went to . . .





### **Reverend F. A. Bonander**

March 31, 1901 - August 29, 1904

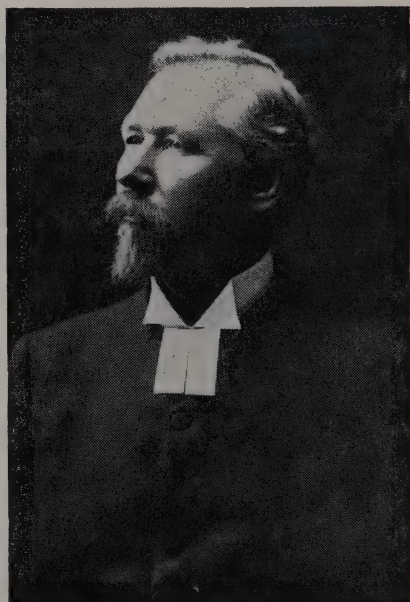
During his period a new organ and a new wall-clock was bought.

Services were well attended. He urged children to attend the divine services. Reports show good work done during his brief period. Gilbert joined Tustin in the fall.

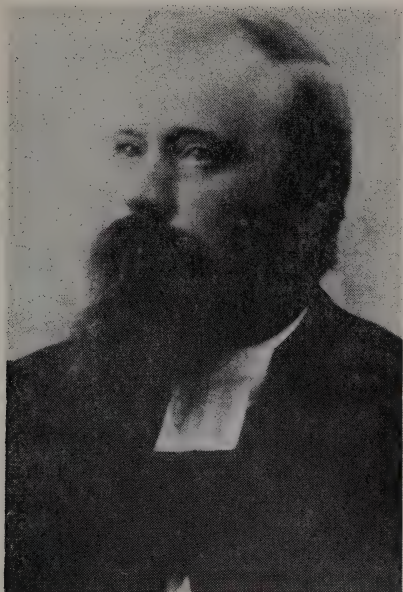
### **Reverend J. A. Norlin**

February 3, 1905 - February 18, 1909

During his stay a great deal of remodeling was done in the church. Services were well attended and the youth and other groups were very active.. January 12, 1908, it was reported that an addition had been added to the church. It was said that Tustin 272, Gilbert 174, and Dewing 125, a total of 572 souls was the strongest parish in the Cadillac District. He resigned November 23, 1908, was presiding January 20, 1909 and left February 18, 1909.







### **Reverend John S. Ryding**

May 2, 1909 - December 30, 1911

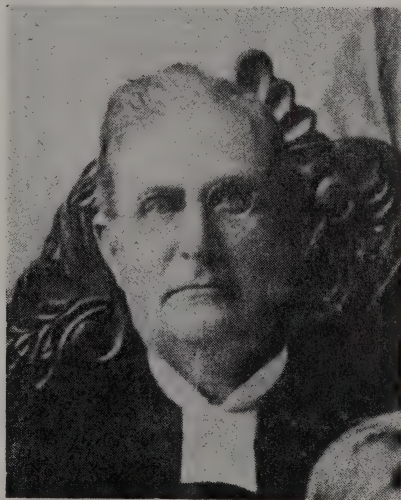
Reverend Ryding was born, June 3, 1853, in Sweden. He came to the United States in 1861 (East Union, Minn.) He was ordained on July 10, 1881 at Lindsborg, Kansas. He came to Tustin in May and was installed November 6, 1909 by Reverend F. A. Linder. He was happy over the warm welcome he received arriving at Tustin, coming from Austin, Texas. During his period new pews were bought for the church. He did fine work, but took sick in May 1911 and the Student Gottfrid

Olson served in 1912. Rev. Ryding resigned September 29, 1911. His grandson Norman V. Ryding will be ordained into the Holy ministry at Hartford, Conn., June 21, 1959. Since we are studying the history of the various pastors, our honorary deacon Mr. Arthur Tufveson assisted me in placing a wreath on the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Ryding, Memorial Day, May 30, 1959 at the Maple Hill Cemetery, LeRoy, Michigan.

### **Reverend A. Sundberg**

June 1, 1912 - June 14, 1916

During his time the Park was purchased for \$175.00 from Rev. John Forsberg. The Luther League, Busy Bee and other organizations were all very active. The highlight in 1913 on August 16-17 was the Luther League Convention held in the Tustin Church. It was the largest attendance of any convention up to then. The Village authorities turned over the key to the visitors and opened the village hall to them.



Local organizations helped with letting them have dishes etc. for the dinner to be served, Saturday and Sunday. The Military Band furnished music during the dinner, and all made the visitors welcome. Special trains came from Manistee, Cadillac, Ludington and other places, some 500 were

in attendance. The Swedish Baptist Church opened its doors for the overflow. A thanks was given Reverend Sundberg and the members of the church for fine cooperation all throughout.

When Rev. Sundberg left a vacancy arose. Extra meetings were held and during those years not less than five calls were issued and all answers were negative.



### **Reverend John A. Berg**

July 15, 1918 - June 2, 1932 (died)

Reverend Berg was called, March 16, 1918, and came in July, and the congregation was happy to have its own pastor again. Reverend Berg was born August 16, 1863 in Sma land, Sweden. He came to America in 1887. He had been working as a mason for 40 years. He studied for the Holy Ministry and was ordained in 1892 as a pastor of the Swedish Mission Church and served that church until 1905, when he became a member of the Augustana Synod. He served several churches before he came to Tustin, Michigan, during the days of WWI.

We Salute the Men in Service of World War I . . . Albert Foresberg, Victor Forsberg, Elmer Lundstrom, died and Tom Kidder, Arthur Tufveson, Elmer Westman and others.

Rev. Berg gave a fine report January 21, 1919. The duplex system had been introduced. A year later we read that the church looks good in its white dress and has seen great activities. In 1921 a new roof was put on the church. The next year the report says services have been well attended and the Home Altar in every home. The picture of the Good Shepherd had been installed at the altar. It was voted to give women right to vote. January 16, 1923 a new piano had been bought. During this year Rev. Berg became sick and A. A. Lovene and Arthur Tufveson had charge of the services. To sum up Rev. Bergs activities we found a clipping that states "Pastor wades snow when roads are slippery." He lived out the old saying: "A charge to keep I have." He went on foot and never failed his congregations. He was president of four Ladies Aids, three Luther Leagues, held confirmation eight months and directed junior league, and arranged suitable entertainments and conducted weekly prayer services. That Rev. Berg was loved by all and in particular by his confirmants was shown at the beginning of the year when a Memorial



gift of \$300 was presented to the Bethphage Home, Nebraska in his honor and that of the beloved daughter Margaret, who became sick the second year the Bergs were in Tustin. It was hard on the family when Margaret was taken to the Bethphage home. Rev. Berg died and was laid to rest in Princeton, Illinois.

#### **Student William E. Berg**

July 15, 1918 - December 31, 1938

Student William E. Berg was born in Princeton, Illinois, May 12, 1910, he was ordained June 20, 1937 in Omaha, Nebraska. He gave a fine report at the age of 22, January 10, 1933, by the way this is the first English annual report given. At the special meeting May 18, 1933 a thanks was given Student William E. Berg for his fine work. At this meeting Reverend Everett Norling was called to become the pastor of the Tustin parish. His answer June, 1933 was affirmative.

"At the present time Pastor Berg is serving as chairman of the Lutheran Evangelism Council, a cooperative evangelism agency working on behalf of five million Lutheran in eight Church bodies. He will be our Evangelist at the 85th anniversary. He is a powerful and forceful speaker, come and hear him.



#### **Reverend Everett W. Norling**

October 15, 1933 - February 1, 1940

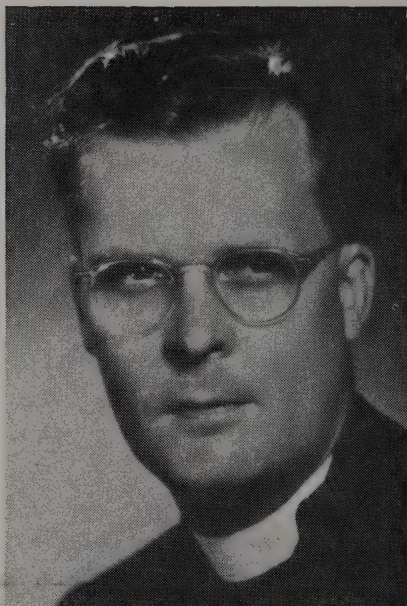
Reverend Norling was born December 9, 1907 in Chicago, Illinois. He was ordained June 18, 1933 in Chicago, upon the call to the Tustin-LeRoy parish. During his period a new water system was installed in the parsonage. We also find a number of reports from lay-men who attended the Conference meeting. January 6, 1936 voted to change the name Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church to Agustana Lutheran Church, Tustin, Mich.

A new roof was put on the church. In 1937 reports, the Brotherhood and other organization are very active. May 31, 1938 voted to build the sacristy and choir room. In 1939 new robes for choirs were bought, storm windows, new carpets etc., for \$596.68. Norling resigned and left March 17, 1940. February 22, 1940 a call was extended to-

### **Reverend Lavern C. Anderson**

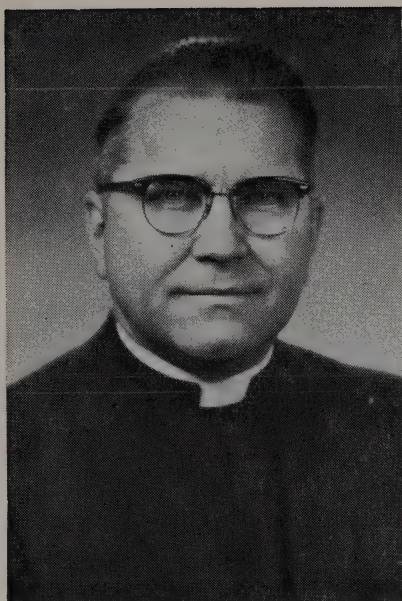
July 1, 1940 - November 1, 1943

Reverend Anderson was born February 21, 1913 in St. Paul, Minn. He was ordained June 9, 1940 in Rock Island, Ill., upon the call from the Tustin-LeRoy parish. His first report strikes the note of Victory. Improvements were made in the parsonage and a new sidewalk laid. A Richter piano was bought for \$567.90 and an outdoor Bulletin Board. He was president of the brotherhood and gave a fine report. September at a special meeting 1942 voted to petition the Board of Mission for Aid. This was the year of World War II. We salute the Men in Service: Harold Barnes, Elton Bittner, Herman Byers, Harold Carlson, William Duddles, Boyd Elofson, Harry Engler, Lloyd Gabrielson, William Hammar, Glen Peterson, Laurel Peterson, Arden Stenman, Arthur Stenman, Everett Stenman. A prayer was said in our church every Sunday for years.



January 7, 1943 voted to become self supporting. It was also voted to change the date of the annual meeting from January to December 1-15. The sum of \$426.07 was paid on the organ. A new furnace was bought for the church. August 18, 1943 Rev. Anderson resigned and left November 1, 1943 for Saron Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, Michigan. During the last few years Rev. Anderson has been the Regional Director of the Great Lakes Area and is doing a marvelous work. He will be one of the speakers at our anniversary.





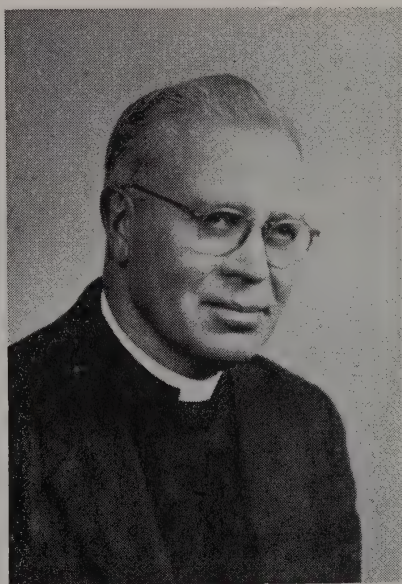
### **Reverend E. Harold Hammar**

Reverend E. Harold Hammar was born July 12, 1911 in Tustin, Michigan. He was baptized and confirmed in the Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin. He attended Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill. He was married June 27, 1942 to Margaret J. Barrons in a double service with brother William and wife's sister, Barbara in the Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin. Reverend Lavern C. Anderson, officiated. There was joy in the hearts of the Tustin congregation when one of their sons, Harold Hammar, was ordained June 6, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minn. He will be one of the speakers at our anniversary.

### **Reverend Victor A. Lindeblad**

Nov. 10, 1943 - Sept. 15, 1952

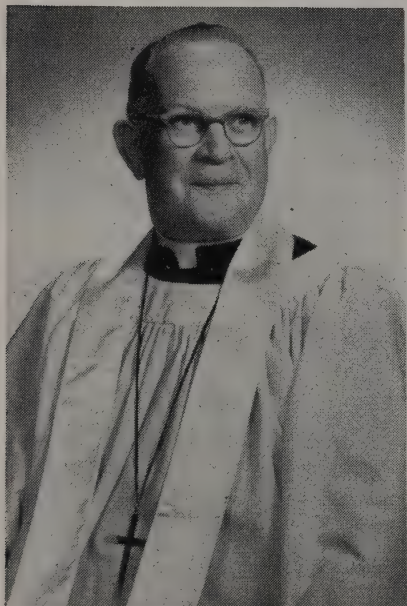
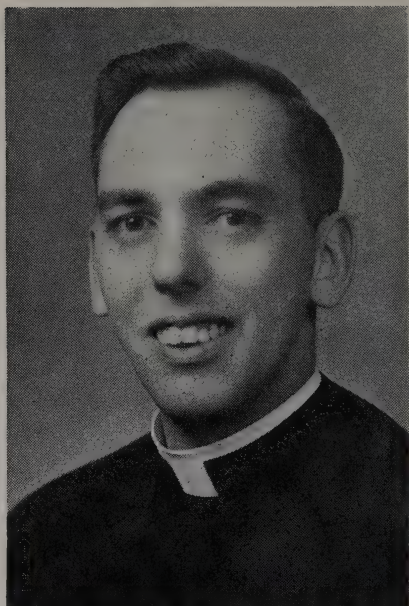
Reverend Lindeblad was born, December 17, 1885 in Kiron, Iowa. Ordained June 15, 1913 in Chicago, Ill. He came to Tustin November 4, 1943. He opened the first annual meeting, December 8, 1943. He had been here just a month and stated that the past year was a most successful financial year. A new furnace had been put in the church. The report for December 11, 1946 states improvement in the church by Magnus Nystrom for \$620.00 He had no report for 1947 due to an accident he met with on the way to Kansas. July 3, 1949 the 75th anniversary was held with many of the former pastors and friends attending. 1950 it was stated that there were no activities of the Luther League nor the Brotherhood. In 1951 new floors were put in church room. September 1, 1952 Rev. Lindeblad resigned. Rev Earl Carlson of Big Rapids became Vice pastor October 26, 1952. During the year the steeple of the church was struck by lightening with very little damage.



**Reverend J. Kenneth Soderquist**

September 30, 1953 - July 15, 1956

Reverend Soderquist was born February 8, 1922 in Buffalo, N. Y. He was ordained June 14, 1953 in Chicago, Illinois, upon the call to the Tustin Lutheran Church. He introduced Every Member Canvas and the Advance For Christ which reached \$1800, Evangelist Conference was held July 17-21, 1955. It was voted to plan for stairway to the basement. A Loyalty Supper was held with Reverend Alfred Fant, speaker. New heating plant, Zone Controls and automatic heat was installed, and new furnace for \$2,650. December 8, 1956, Reverend Fant presided. March 31, 1957 voted to buy a new Allen organ. April 29 voted to call-



**Reverend Fritz Soderberg**

June 13, 1957 -

Reverend Soderberg was born February 12, 1890 in Brestau, Germany. He came to Sweden in 1903 as gardeners son. Served in the Swedish army, 1911-1913. He came to America, October 1913 to New York City, N. Y. Worked as gardener in Stamford Conn., entered the Academy at Upsala College, Kenilworth, N. J., January 1916-May 1916. Worked in Plainfield, N. J., and back to Upsala in the fall of 1917-1924 when he graduated B. A. He went to the Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., in the fall of 1924, was ordained June 19, 1927 upon the call to the North Grosvenor Dale, Conn., and Auburn, Mass., parish, which he served for 25 years.

Rev. Soderberg came to Tustin, June 13, 1957 from Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill. It has been a great pleasure to work in the Tustin-LeRoy



parish. Soon after my arrival here "The Lutheran Messenger," our fine church paper was printed each month or at times for two months. At present we are busy to print the anniversary album for June 25-28th. The Lutheran Messenger gives us the news up to date and is very much appreciated by friends in America, Sweden, Germany, England, Australia and other places. We would like to mention just two things the gift of 200 New Hymnals to both churches by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Westman and the new Augustana Lutheran Church Women, organization. We are standing at the threshold of the 85th anniversary celebration leaving all to the honor and glory of God, always keeping before our minds Christ's words "without Me ye can do nothing." We hope and pray that this album will be appreciated and be received in the spirit in which it is written.

### **We Salute Our Men In Service**

**1951**

Devere Byers, Lawrence B. Huss, Jack Doan, Jack Forsberg, Gordon Jacobson, Bernard Johnson, Walter Johnson, Richard Anderson, Delmar Carlson, Arthur Stenman, Arden Stenman, Laurel Raab, Arden Otberg, Gordon Jacobson, Rev. J. Kenneth Soderquist, and others.



The group pictures give you a little idea of those who worship with us from day to day.



The Board of Administration is doing fine work and are cooperating in every respect.



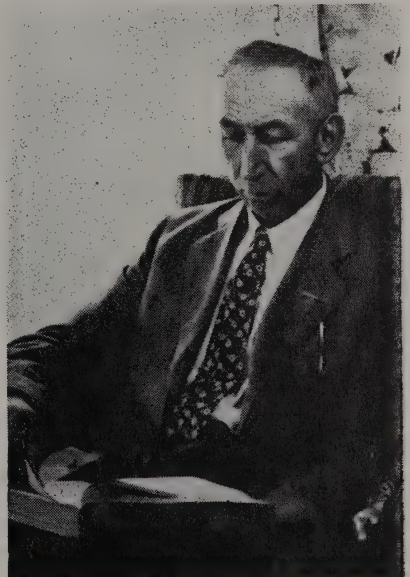
Vacation Bible school has been held in years past for longer or shorter periods.





The Sunday School has carried on its work from the beginning of the church with faithful teachers and pupils.

Arthur Tufveson who represents the lay-men of our church has been Sunday School Superintendent for 50 years and often served as chairman at annual and extra meeting. He is a consecrated christian through and through just like his good wife, Mary.





The Ladies Aid and Woman's Missionary societies have been active throughout the years, and now have joined the A. L. C. A. in our churches.



The Luther League has been rather active. It is a joint group of the Tustin-LeRoy churches and friends.





The choir has been busy for many years and have had fine choir leaders and organists to work with. Our last organist who moved to Reed City, Michigan, Mrs. William Duddles resigned May 31, 1959, Mrs. Fritz Soderberg director and choir leader was elected.



**Mrs. Fritz Soderberg B. M.**  
Organist and Choir Director



Gilbert



Zion



Reed City

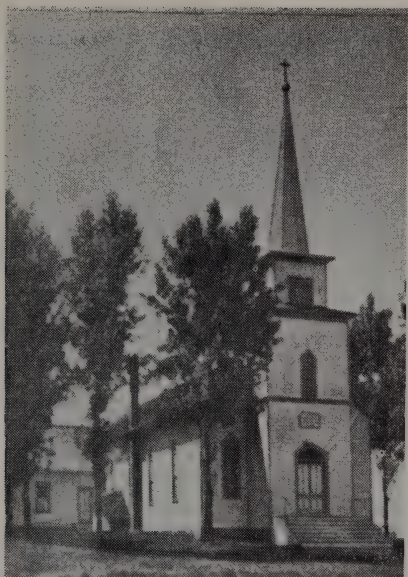


Dewings



Hobart





Tustin



LeRoy



As you notice our church has a rather unique history and we failed to locate the other graves in our grave yard near the church. There is only one marker as you see in the picture.



Tustin Choir 1911

Mrs. and Mrs. Victor Lindberg are still in the choir





OSCAR A. BENSON, Ph.D., D.D.  
President  
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MINNEAPOLIS 4, MINNESOTA

MALVIN H. LUNDEEN, D.D.  
Vice President  
301 Blackstone Avenue  
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D. VERNER SWANSON, D.D.  
Secretary  
2000 Kaneville Road  
GENEVA, ILLINOIS

HAROLD A. SMITH  
Treasurer  
4607 Lakeview Drive  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

## Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
2445 PARK AVENUE  
MINNEAPOLIS 4, MINNESOTA

June 3, 1959

Augustana Lutheran Church  
Tustin, Michigan

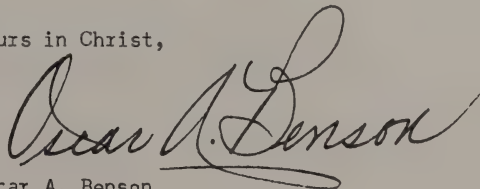
Dear Christian Friends:

The invitation sent me by your pastor to provide a greeting from the Augustana Lutheran Church, our national body, immediately brought back to me many pleasant memories from the days when I was a member of what is now the Central Conference. I was there once when we were actually snowed in, and I was also there in the height of the summer, but I remember distinctly that whether it was summer or winter, there were many warm friends in the church there ready to greet visitors cordially.

After all, eighty-five years is a long time, even in the history of a congregation, nor is there any institution that records more important events in the lives of people than does a parish. Undoubtedly some of your finest moments have been spent in your sanctuary, and it has also been the place where you have found God in moments of great distress and trial. Many who long since went to their eternal reward will glorify God in eternity for the impact made by your church on their lives.

God bless you as you reminisce on the past, and strengthen your determination to give increasing devotion and service to the welfare of your congregation. May pastor and people always work together harmoniously for the common purpose of proclaiming the Gospel and bringing salvation to men.

Yours in Christ,



Oscar A. Benson

OAB:jn

# The Central Conference

OF THE AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PHONE HARRISON 7-8380  
327 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago 4, Illinois

June 10, 1959

Augustana Lutheran Church  
c/o The Rev. Fritz Soderberg  
Tustin, Michigan

Dear Friends:

As you observe the Eighty-Fifth Anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin, Michigan in June 1959, let me on behalf of your sister congregations in The Central Conference convey to you our heartiest felicitations.

As you review your history with thankfulness to God for his sustaining grace you will be mindful of a long history of dedicated and effective ministry by your pastors and the laymen and women of your congregation who through the years have shared with them in the redemptive program of Augustana Church.

Your fellow Christians in our Conference recognize also that you have through the years shared with them in supporting the total work of the Church beyond the parish -- our common Augustana work in American, World, Social and Educational Missions.

But on this occasion you will not only look backward in grateful retrospect. You will also surely look forward and upward using this fine occasion to dedicate yourselves anew as a congregation to continued effective service in Kingdom tasks which our Lord Jesus Christ has committed in sacred stewardship to His Church. In your every effort as pastor and people so to serve your Lord, may you experience God's abundant and abiding blessings.

Most sincerely yours,

*O. V. Anderson*  
O. V. Anderson, President  
Central Conference

OVA:mr



### **Deacons**

P. A. Johnson, August Peterson, Otto Anderson, J. A. Gabrielson, Henry Peterson, Henry Anderson, J. P. Swenson, L. E. Anderson, Pete Carlson, J. A. Lindstrom, Jonas Isberg, August Carlson, Lars Erickson, A. A. Lovene, L. A. Stenman, P. Frisk, Chas. Anderson, John Holmgren, Nels Stevenson, C. F. Johnson, Pete Erickson, O. W. Swanson, C. P. Tufveson, C. A. Lindstrom, John Beckstrom, O. A. Holmgren, Nels Forsgren, Arthur Tufveson, Will Peterson, Alfred Land, Nels Norman, Edward Jonson, Albin Harmon, And. G. Johnson, August Seekstrom, C. P. Westman, Robert Johnson, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Nelson, Nels Johnson, Andrew Stenman, Emil Forsgren, Edward Peterson, Earl Engler, Charles Peterson, Alexis Jonson, Adolphe Johnson, Victor Lindberg, Oscar Nelson, Lester Byers, Reuben Carlson, Arthur Lempke, Herman Byers, Thorwald Otberg, Fred Augustat, Bert Huss and Herbert Johnson.

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### **Sunday School Superintendent**

Henry Peterson, A. A. Lovene, Arthur Tufveson 50 years.

### Organists

J. A. Lindstrom, Mrs. M. P. Oden, John Holmgren, Mrs. C. A. Johnson, Signe Miller, Mrs. O. S. Werner, Laura Lovene, Arthur Stevenson, Mildred Lovene, Mrs. Laura LeVander, Evelyn Stevenson, Andrew Stenman, Gertrude Engstrom, Margaret Berg, Inez Westman, Helen Land, Mrs. Elmer Stenman, Miss Alberta Westman, Miss Gertrude Forsgren, Miss Irene Forsgren, Mrs. Alberta Duddles and Mrs. Fritz Soderberg, B. M.

### Sexton

Erick Boman, John Lindberg, John Christy, Frank Lempke, Charles Westman, Coy Hammar, Andrew Pearson, Stanford Lindeblad and Herman Byers.

We also like to express a word of thanks to all those who have worked and so faithfully supported the church during the 85 years and for your kind donation to help to pay for the many improvements made. We are thankful for the building committee, Carl Johnson, Thorwald Otberg, Fred Stenman, Elmer Westman and others who did much work, all to the honor and glory of God. Thank you!

We do appreciate the greetings sent us by the President of the Church Dr. Oscar A. Benson and for the greeting of Dr. O. V. Anderson and others.

We are thankful for the many clippings we received from members of the Tustin and LeRoy churches, for Portrait and Biographical Album of Osceola County of 1885, for the History of the Diocese of Western Michigan from the library of St. Marks Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the Korsbaneret of the Augustana College library, Rock Island, Ill., and other sources.







